

CONTACT

July
1971



THE PRIZEWINNERS
(See page 141)

E.E.I.B.A. Appeal

INCOME FOR 1970 almost exactly equalled that for 1967, whereas expenditure had increased and last year was 27 per cent higher than four years ago. This statement is not taken from our annual report, nor is it an updated quote from Micawber, but was the disturbing trend revealed at the annual general meeting of the Electrical and Electronic Industries Benevolent Association (EEIBA) by Mr. A. H. Young, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

He said that the Association was in business to relieve need and not to achieve a substantial excess of income over expenditure. He went on to say that with an operation of the magnitude now undertaken by EEIBA, it was not possible each year to balance exactly the Association's requirements and resources. It was sufficient if, taking one year with another, EEIBA was able to carry out the work which it regards as being important.

Succeeding Mr. J. P. Engels as President of EEIBA for the 1971/72 year of office was Mr. Stanley F. Steward, recently retired director of BEAMA. Mr. Steward commenting on the Association's work said, "So often it is a case not of providing more but just of seeing that the

amount we provide has the same purchasing power. Beyond that, our aim is to obtain little support from everyone in industry rather than much from a few. I would appeal to all employers who have not yet done so to consider encouraging their staff to subscribe through salary deduction schemes."

It is just a thought, but tomorrow you or your dependents could need the ready help offered by EEIBA. In MANWEB today only about 500 members of the eligible 2,970 staff are voluntary contributors.

It's very easy to join. Just pick up the 'phone and call the Welfare Department at Head Office and ask for a salary deduction slip. Do it now—it's quite straightforward. Ten-pence a month from your salary won't hurt or break you, but it will most certainly help others.

COURSE 248 AT WALLASEY



Part-time saleswomen who recently completed their six two-day sales training sessions at Wallasey. From left to right: Mrs. Margaret Williams (Wallasey), Mrs. Barbara Hughes (Holyhead), Mrs. Val. Lawson (West Kirby), Mrs. Muriel Williams (St. John's), Mrs. Marion Hughes (Runcorn), Miss E. V. Jones (Marketing Demonstrator, temporarily seconded to Sales Training Centre), Mrs. Ann Sarsfield (St. John's) and Mrs. Ann Williams (Bangor).

The Girl from MANWEB 1972



look out for details in
next month's 'Contact'



"Pssst-Screwdriver!"



CONTACT

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 Sam Doughty

EDITORIAL

Easing the Pressure

AS POPULATIONS expand, so the job of keeping everyone adequately housed has tended to become something of a chronic social problem.

Since the second world war, housing shortages and shortcomings have plagued Britain more, perhaps, than they have affected some other developed countries. The virtual standstill on new building during the war, deterioration due to lack of repair and maintenance, and destruction by bombing left us faced with a mammoth housing problem after the war. Ever since then the best efforts of local authorities and private builders have constituted something of a desperate chase to catch up, and at the same time to meet the increasing demands caused by rising population and higher housing standards.

In a country possessing a limited amount of suitable land, and facing enormous pressures on what is available, the idea of every family living in pleasant greeneried surroundings seems, perhaps, something of an idealist's pipe-dream. At the same time, the social problems inherent in the planner's alternative of multi-storey tower blocks are becoming increasingly apparent, as every Council responsible for such developments is finding to its cost.

We still have, however, millions of existing homes which are structurally sound, located in firmly-established communities, but which lack some or all of the amenities of civilised living.

The granting of funds to bring these homes up to modern standards (referred to on page 146 of this number of *Contact*), can do much to help solve our housing problems, at least in the short and medium term. This is another field in which electricity can play a big part in improving the general standard of life for large numbers of people. At the same time, it provides an excellent opportunity for increasing our domestic load!

Apprentices rewarded for fine efforts

Careers off to a good start

"IN DECIDING to become an electrician you are now part of one of the most important industries in the country" said guest speaker Mr. J. W. Trimble when he addressed over 60 teenagers gathered at our Hoylake Apprentice Training Centre recently for their annual prize-giving ceremony.

They had just completed the first ten months of their training giving them a sound basis for careers as tradesmen.

Mr. J. L. W. Ladner (*Education and Training Officer*) opened the proceedings of this 15th annual ceremony by offering a warm welcome to the guests, the parents of the prizewinners and to the Hoylake landladies. Here he made special mention of Miss Gertrude Rogers and Mrs. Betty Earnden who had looked after our apprentices ever since the Training Centre opened in 1956.

Also present were representatives from two of our Districts—

Miss Gertrude
Rogers



Mrs. Betty
Earnden

North Wirral and Mid-Cheshire.

Then Mr. Ladner introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Trimble, who he said, had been in the electricity industry all his working life. He came to MANWEB as an Area Accountant and later became an Area Manager. Under the Board's re-organisation programme, he had been appointed as a Group Manager.

Mr. Trimble began by emphasising the importance of the electricity industry in the home, farm, office, factory—and in fact, everywhere in this country.

Being an accountant at heart, he had some facts and figures for his audience. He said that MANWEB had over a million customers and sold over £90 million worth of electricity in a year. That worked out at about £2 million a week... enough to build 500 houses on the £4,000 mark. Contracting and sales of appliances brought in over £8 million a year. And we had about 7,000 employees.

"You can readily understand that MANWEB is big business—very big business," he went on. **"It is also a commercial business, and by that I mean it has to pay its way."**

He explained that the Board had direct competition from gas and oil—particularly North Sea gas—and it was therefore essential to keep costs down. The best way of doing this was to have an organisation that was highly efficient, and MANWEB at pre-

sent were in the process of a large re-organisation programme which would achieve this efficiency.

Mr. Trimble went on to show how the 7,000 members of MANWEB including the apprentices before him, could fit together like pieces of a giant jig-saw with everyone having a part in the organisation picture.

Face to Face

"Relatively few employees in the Board actually meet our customers face to face," he continued. **"Those who do are the staffs in our shops, meter readers and collectors and electricians and installation inspectors. So you see, you have an important and specialised part to play. You will really be ambassadors for the Board when you go into a customer's house. Indeed, he will often judge the Board from the impression you leave."**

"If you turn up at a customer's house looking scruffy, tools falling out of your bag and you are ill-mannered and grumpy, while you may do a good electrical job, the impression created will most certainly not be a favourable one."

He then expressed his opinion that after an apprentice had been through the Board's school at Hoylake the expertise of his craft would be of the very highest standard. He said that it was now accepted that electricians trained at Hoylake are as good as the best in the country. He reminded the

Chief guests at Hoylake, Mr. and Mrs. Trimble, centre, with Mr. Ladner, left, and Mr. Slack.





Mrs. Trimble graciously receives a floral bouquet from apprentice David P. Kenyon of Chester.

young men that they had lots of tradition behind them and asked that they did not let the school down.

"You have a high standard to maintain," he said, "and I am sure you will succeed."

Mr. Trimble then spoke for a few minutes on the stages in the life of man, from birth to retirement, saying how important this day was in the lives of all the teenagers present. He told them that they were leaving the Training Centre as boys, to become men in the Districts as they began to stand firmly on their own feet.

He asked them to remember that society did not owe them a living but like everyone else, they would have to work for what they got.

He said that craftsmen were very important people. "The fact that you decided to serve an apprenticeship and become a craftsman rather than going for a job with an immediate fat pay packet but with no future, is a credit to both you and your parents," he continued.

In bringing his remarks to a close, Mr. Trimble said that after completing their apprenticeships they would be working in an

essential and expanding industry and he could see no reason why they should not make a success of their chosen careers.

He had one word of advice for the young men when he said, "Whether you are doing a job, playing a game of football or any other activity, always do it to the very best of your ability. It is only by doing things this way that you will get satisfaction."

Then followed the presentation of the prizes with the winners

receiving their award and congratulations from Mrs. Trimble.

David Arnold of Liverpool, the youngest apprentice on the Course then rose confidently to his feet to speak for his companions in offering a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Trimble for being with them on prizeday.

"At Hoylake we have been given an excellent start" said David, "and, speaking for all the apprentices, may I thank all the members of the staff who have contributed to our training. Nowhere could we have been set higher standards, and we may appreciate only later on in life the real value of some of the things which, at the time, may have seemed irksome."

The ceremony was then brought to a close when Mr. Ladner rose and endorsed David's remarks on the standard of instruction at the Centre. He publicly thanked the instructors and the administrators at Hoylake for the capable and competent way they went about their work, under the guidance of Mr. Ron Slack.



David Arnold

WINNERS COVERPIC

OUR COVER PICTURE features the quartette of young men who won the prizes at Hoylake this year. *From top to bottom—*

The prize for the Best All-Round Performance went to apprentice **David Shore** of Crewe who we see with his mother and father and, on the left, Mr. N. Walsh (*District Commercial Engineer*).

The next picture shows apprentice **William F. Jones** of Pwllheli, winner of the prize for Electrical Subjects. He is joined by his Mum and Dad, and, on the right, Mr. J. W. Trimble (*Group Manager*).

Then we have Mr. and Mrs. John Ledward of Crewe with their son **Peter**, who walked off with the prize for Mechanical Subjects. His new boss, Mr. H. J. Bird (*Installation Engineer*) is on the right.

Finally we see the young man who won the School of Adventure prize, apprentice **Noel Youds** of Birkenhead, together with his parents and, on the right, Mr. G. Bowers (*District Commercial Engineer*).

We get letters

from

Amsterdam

A most unusual letter arrived at our North Wirral District Office recently. It originated in Amsterdam and was from a former customer who had previously lived in Birkenhead. He wrote as follows :

Dear Sir,

On checking through my account I notice that only two standing orders from my bank of £14.42 have been paid to you, instead of three. Enclosed is the other payment and I hope there has been no inconvenience caused by this missing payment.

I would be grateful if you could forward the receipt to the above address.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed)

from a
Councillor

From time to time we have 'Open Evenings' at some of our shops when local councillors and officials are invited along to have a peaceful look round at what we have to offer the public and to talk to our staff regarding our service to the community. After one such visit, Mr. Eric Galvani, supervisor at our Huyton shop was very pleased to receive the following letter :

To the Manager,

May I on behalf of my husband and myself, offer to you, and your staff our thanks for a most pleasant evening spent with you and your technical colleagues recently.

This unfortunately was the first chance I had of visiting your

showrooms but I may assure you that it will not be the last for at long last after being able to inspect plus a little bit of persuasion, my husband is now convinced that a 'fridge is a must. We are hoping that during the course of the next few weeks to pay you a visit and make our selection.

Thank you all for your very welcome and pleasant company.

Yours sincerely,
(Councillor)

from a new
customer

A letter from a customer who recently moved into our area from the Midlands reads as follows :

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank you for the courtesy which we have been given since we transferred to your area. We have twice had emergencies, once a power failure, and the second time, a fuse board fire, and on each occasion, out of ordinary hours, we have had the trouble dealt with, very swiftly and very expertly, and with the greatest good humour.

I cannot say in honesty that it gives me pleasure to pay this account, but at least I grudge it far less that I did in the past.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed)

and from
Wales

Some time ago a fault developed on an underground cable at Penrhyn deudraeth in Merioneth. A temporary service was quickly provided to the Urdd while the original cable fault was located and repaired.

Members of the Board's staff concerned in this incident made a

great effort which was noted and suitably recognised by Mr. Elfed Roberts, the Warden at Aelwyd yr Urdd. who wrote the following letter . . .

Aelwyd yr Urdd,
Penrhyndeudraeth.

Dafydd Jones, Ysw.,
Peiriannydd Adran,
Bwrdd Trydan Gogledd Cymru,
Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Annwyl Mr. Jones,

Oni bai am ymdrech arbennig a wnaed gan dynion eich adran yr wythnos ddiwetha, pan aeth rhwbeth o'i le ar y gwifran tu allan i'r Aelwyd, mi fyddem mewn penbleth. Hwn yw'r tymor prysuraf, yn enwedig yr wythnos yn union o flaen yr eisteddfod. Ond cawsom osgoi unrhyw anhwylystod.

Dioch yn fawr iawn,
Yr eiddoch yn gywir,
ELFED ROBERTS,
Warden.

with the
translation

(Welsh League of Youth)
Aelwyd yr Urdd,
Penrhyndeudraeth.

Dafydd Jones, Esq.,
Section Engineer,
North Wales Electricity Board,
Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Dear Mr. Jones,

But for the special effort made by your men last week, when something went wrong with the wires outside the Aelwyd, we would have been in trouble. This is the busiest time, especially the week before the eisteddfod and any undue inconvenience was averted.

Thank you,
Yours truly,
ELFED ROBERTS,
Warden.

The Wild West— in Comfort



THE development of the Dwyfor Ranch Hotel at Llanystumdwy, near Criccieth, had brought a touch of the flavour of the American West to Snowdonia.

Visitors from all over Britain and the Continent are making the hotel a Mecca for enjoyable riding holidays. The horses—60 or 70 of them—are there. So are the log-cabin type of buildings.

Saloon-style swing doors, horse motifs everywhere, and waiters and barmen (sorry, bartenders) dressed in cowboy outfits all add to the "Western" atmosphere—but here the comparison ends.

For the guests at the hotel do not breakfast on bacon and beans (*unless they happen to have a passion for bacon and beans!*) Nor do they sleep on hard wooden bunks, or bathe in the nearest creek

"Hi-Ho Silver!"—as these lucky ladies set off for a pleasant ride through the lovely surroundings of Lloyd George country.





Not quite like the old time bar in a Wild West town, but these modern bartenders dressed in leather waistcoats and kerchiefs round their necks help to create the atmosphere.

(though no doubt the enterprising management could arrange these things for anyone who insisted on stark realism).

Instead, every facility and comfort of a first-class hotel in the civilised world is instantly available, and the silent driving force which provides them is electricity, which was some time behind the pioneers in arriving in Texas.

The development began some six years ago when Major Tysilio Jones, a keen breeder of Welsh Cobs, and his wife, opened a riding and trekking centre with a nucleus of 12 ponies.

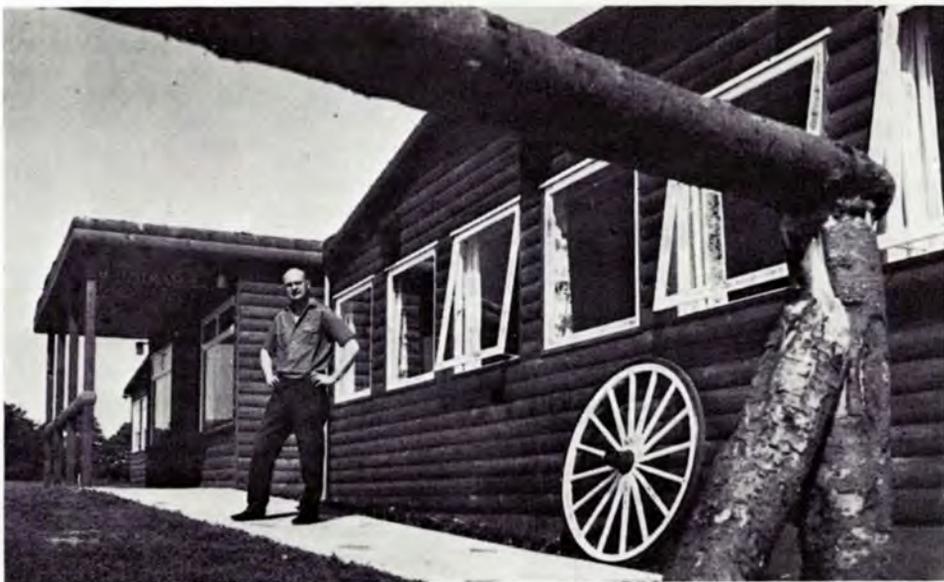
The centre was a great success, and visitors flocked to enjoy the pleasures of riding through the

lovely surrounding Lloyd George country. From these beginnings Major and Mrs. Jones developed their plans for today's super-comfort Ranch Hotel.

Now, set in 120 acres of lovely country bounded by the River Dwyfor, the hotel consists of a central block incorporating a reception office, lounge and TV lounge, writing room, and a spacious restaurant capable of seating 100 people and providing a most varied and extensive menu.

Guests are accommodated in Ranch-style bungalows in the grounds nearby, and some of these are "self-catering."

At an early stage of planning MANWEB were called in to advise on the contribution which electricity



A striking camera shot taken from behind the 'hitchin' rail' and showing the owner of the Dwyfor Ranch Hotel, Mr. Tysilio Jones outside one of the log cabins.

The chef prepares first-class food in the surroundings of a first-class all-electric kitchen—one of the most modern on the North Wales coast.



could make to ensuring that the Wild West, complete comfort, and first-class catering all went hand in hand.

Gwynedd District's Energy Sales staff, led by Mr. Frank Littler, and the MANWEB catering expert, Mrs. Joan Dittrich, bent their energies to solving the various problems, and as a result the hotel complex now has a total electrical load of over 500 kilowatts!

The restaurant kitchen is one of the most modern on the North Wales coast, and following Mrs. Dittrich's recommendations its electrical equipment includes ovens, boiling plates, fryer, griddle, salamander, pressure boiler and steam injector, hot cupboards and servery, cold room deep freezer, ice maker, coffee machine and food mixer.

Heating in the restaurant, bar and lounges is by inset fan heaters, and the 22 cabins used for guest accommodation are provided with heating and hot water by electricity, while the kitchens of the "self catering" cabins are also all-electric, of course.

The guests at the Dwyfor Ranch Hotel, in fact, can live it the hard way during the daytime, but on their return are cossetted by warm comfortable rooms, hot baths to soothe aching muscles, and a luxury restaurant to cater for those enormous open-air appetites—all provided with efficiency, cleanliness and economy by electricity.

Surely enough to make the sourdoughs turn in their saddles in the sky—and turn green with envy at the same time!

The luxury restaurant where enormous open-air appetites can be satisfied and good food enjoyed amid pleasant surroundings.



Money to Modernise— Grants for Home-Improvements

THE Government are giving away money—yes giving it away! We haven't got summer madness or even a touch of the wage-freeze, but we are simply stating a fact—there is no catch. Our Government is really giving away money at the rate of up to £1,000 a time. . . . and in some special cases up to £1,500!

Those eligible for these handouts are owner-occupiers and landlords of rented property—including local councils—who set out to modernise their homes and bring them up to present-day standards.

Over a million and a quarter homes have already had the benefit of this scheme and have been made habitable again with the aid of these grants.

To qualify, a house must lack the basic necessities of clean, hygienic toilet and cooking facilities, hot water and heating. By providing these things, so necessary for good health and comfort, the value of the property is obviously increased.

Local Councils all over the country are already handing out over £30,000,000 a year in grants for home improvements.

This is all part of the Government's solution to the housing problem. Through this scheme it is hoped to save some of the older type of property, which is still structurally sound, and by spending a little money wisely, these homes can be brought up to modern standards.

The aim is to modernise about 4,500,000 homes in this country capable of being improved so as to give them many more years of life.

Liverpool Exhibition

MANWEB commercial staff are fully aware of the great opportunity we have of helping in this field. Already we have co-operated in a number of Council schemes in various places in our area. Recently we took part in an exhibition in Liverpool at which the Minister for Housing and Construction, The Rt. Hon. Julian Amery, M.P., performed the opening ceremony. As he launched the City's month-long home improvements campaign he said, "There is no Treasury ceiling on the amount of money the Government is prepared to give local authorities in grants for improving soundly-built older houses."

In the larger cities especially, many people object to having to move from their old homes to new

housing developments, sometimes many miles away. They have got used to the neighbourhood and want to stay there. Uprooting has caused much misery and suffering.

With the discretionary use of these Government grants many of the older type houses can be modernised and made fit to live in and so save family upheavals. It also gives the property, and possibly the tenants, a new lease. . . of life.

To show the many people who qualify for the grants just how quickly and easily. . . and often economically. . . MANWEB can help, we have converted a showmobile to look like a house on wheels and this is now touring the area.

Inside the vehicle there is a display of water heating, cooking and heating appliances which are all subject to the grants. Specialist staff are available to advise Councils on the conversions of large blocks of property as well as advising individuals on their own homes.

The Rt. Hon. Julian Amery, M.P., left, in a happy mood as he visits the Board's stand. Offering a welcome is Mr. Dave Chalmers, centre, and Mr. Mal Cooper, right.

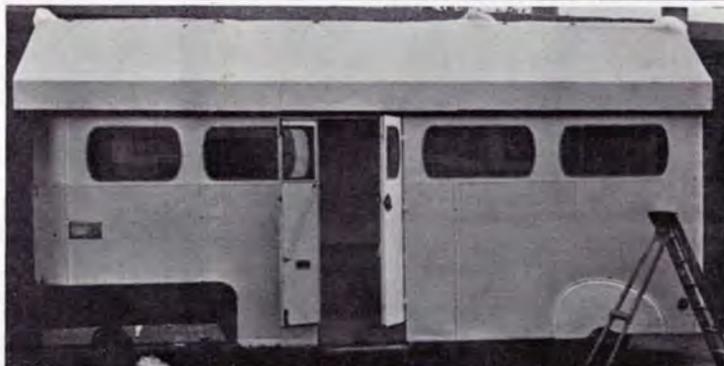
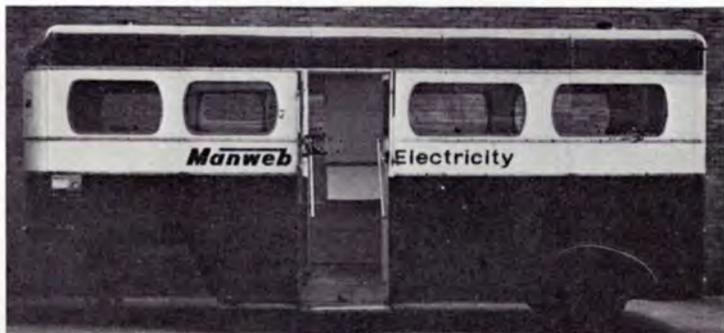




Above: Mr. M. R. Cowan, C.C.O., left, chats with Mr. Gordon Thompson one of our salesmen at the exhibition. Below: A section of the display inside the 'Home on Wheels.'



TRANSFORMATION — FROM SHOWMOBILE TO HOME ON WHEELS



Mr. Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Environment, recently announced in Parliament that grants of up to 75 per cent of the cost of conversion (up to £1,500 cash) will be offered to property owners in the development and intermediate areas on applications made after 23rd June 1971—providing that the work is completed before 23rd June 1973.

As far as MANWEB is concerned, the areas

affected by these new grants are as follows: The County Boroughs of Birkenhead, Bootle, Liverpool, St. Helens and Wallasey. The Boroughs of Bebington, Crosby and Ellesmere Port. The Urban Districts of Hoylake, Huyton-with Roby, Kirkby, Litherland, Neston, Prescot, Rainford, Runcorn, Winsford and Wirral. The Rural Districts of Runcorn, Warrington and Winsford.

MANWEB/HOOVER
**TREBLE
 CHANCE**
PRIZEWINNERS



Once again, another joint promotion between MANWEB and the Hoover Company was a huge success. During a limited time period, customers buying a Hoover product from any of our shops were given an opportunity of entering a competition to win a dishwasher. Three of these wonderful kitchen aids were offered and our pictures on this page show the lucky customers receiving their prizes.

Above: Our "Girl from MANWEB," Miss Hilary Panting, left, officially hands over a dishwasher to Mrs. T. Quick of Wavertree, Liverpool. Looking over the 'Congratulations' board is Hoover Area Manager, Mr. J. Polding.

Top left: Mr. B. Laurie, right, of Deeside, Flintshire, who made his original purchase from our Shotton shop, receives his prize from Mr. C. S. Evans (District Sales Supervisor). Standing by ready to show how the machine works is Marketing Demonstrator, Miss Ann Johnson.

Below left: Lucky winner number three, Mrs. V. Ordish of Sandbach, is congratulated on her success by Mr. J. Polding, (Area Manager, Hoover Ltd.).

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE

Civil Service

Nationalised Industries (Pensions)

Mr. Laurence Reed asked the Minister for the Civil Service whether he will make a statement on Ministerial control of the terms of pension schemes for the staff of the nationalised industries.

Mr. David Howell: Yes. Under existing legislation, the boards of the nationalised industries are required to secure Ministerial approval for the terms of pension schemes for their staff. The Government have decided that this requirement can be removed. The boards are responsible commercial undertakings; there is no statutory obligation to secure Ministerial approval in determining the pay and other conditions of service of their staff; and there are no longer good reasons for statutory control of their superannuation terms, subject to the conditions required for the tax approval of pensions schemes generally.

Where control can be removed by subordinate legislation, the necessary instruments will be laid before Parliament as soon as possible. In some cases, the requirement can be removed only by primary legislation; this will be presented to Parliament in due course. Until the legislation is passed, the terms of the pension schemes in question will remain under Ministerial control.

Similar action will be taken towards a number of other bodies in the public sector which do not

depend for their income mainly on public funds.

The Government will continue to control the pension terms of members, as distinct from staff, of the boards of nationalised industries and certain other public sector bodies, who are appointed by Ministers. The removal of control from the staff pension schemes will in no way affect the pensions of employees of the industries who retired before the industries were nationalised and who were in central or local government service.

Common Market

Mr. Arthur Lewis asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to what extent the application of the Common Market's policy on the ending of state monopolies and the unrestricted market in trade and goods will have to be applied to Great Britain's state industries on Great Britain's entry into the European Economic Community; and what effect this will have on these industries.

Mr. Ridley: The measures agreed by the Community as regards State Monopolies refer to specific goods, for which no monopoly exists in the United Kingdom. Our nationalised industries will not be affected.

Electricity Boards (Utilisation Activities)

Mr. Palmer asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the progress so far of his discussions with the electricity boards on the possibility of removing from their ownership and control showrooms, contracting and similar other activities in the electrical utilisation field.

The Minister for Industry (Sir John Eden): I have received the Electricity Council's views and am now considering them.

Mr. Palmer: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that rather

pointless investigation has been going on for a long time, and is causing great worry and uncertainty to staff, and that the electricity supply industry is facing the keenest possible competition? Should not the investigation be dropped and the industry allowed to get on with its job?

Sir J. Eden: There is a general understanding in the industry that these things need to be properly studied before any decisions are reached.

Sir G. Nabarro: Will my hon. Friend give me an assurance that his consultations have not been one-sided? If he is receiving the observations of the electricity authorities in the publicly-owned sector, will he seek the views of private enterprise traders, notably electrical contractors and appliance distributors, who have views widely removed from those of the nationalised electricity industry, including my own view, also widely removed?

Sir J. Eden: I have been receiving the views of other interests concerned, including the private traders. It is because of this that the study is taking some time.

Electricity and Gas Meters

Mr. Costain asked the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications if he will issue a general direction to the Post Office to ascertain the number of additional staff required for postmen to read electric and gas meters while they deliver mail.

Mr. Chataway: No, Sir.

Mr. Costain: The Minister will be aware that his reply is no surprise to me. Will he look at the proposal again? Is he not aware of the number of postmen who take part-time employment? Is there not some advantage to be gained by having electricity and gas meters read by postmen who are well known to the residents rather than by surprise callers whom they do not know?

Mr. Chataway : This is not a new suggestion. I believe that it has been considered by both the Gas and Electricity Councils, together with a number of other suggestions which have been made over the years. However, I am sure that they and the Post Office will consider what my hon. Friend said.

Coal (Prices)

Mr. Arthur Lewis asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has yet received the views of the Domestic Coal Consumers Council on the approach made to them by the Coal Board for different percentage increases for different types of coal; and whether in view of the Government's declared policy of reducing prices in general, and costs and services of nationalised industries in particular, he will refuse to grant permission for any price increase in domestic coal.

Sir J. Eden : I will of course take into account all relevant matters when considering the Council's views, which I have not yet received.

Nationalised Industries (Gas and Oil Exploration)

Mr. Edwin Wainwright asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will seek powers to enable the nationalised industries to be granted exploration rights to bore for gas and oil, on land in the United Kingdom.

Sir J. Eden : No.

Electricity Demand

Mr. Leadbitter asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what is the growth in demand expectancy for electricity during the next three years.

Mr. Ridley : The Electricity Council's recently announced forecast for the winter of 1976-77 represents a growth rate in the maximum demand for electricity over the next six years of 5.7 per cent. a year. I understand that the

expected growth over the next three years is similar.

Wage Increases

Mr. Alfred Morris asked the Prime Minister if he will now give the statistical basis for his statement concerning the de-escalation of wage increases; and if he will give the average percentage increase, for the private and public sectors separately, of all wage and salary settlements which have become operative since 1st July, 1970.

The Prime Minister : The estimated average percentage increase in earnings resulting from major pay settlements concluded and notified to the Department of Employment since 1st July, 1970, is 13.5 per cent. This figure is

weighted to take account of the numbers of workers affected and includes only the first stages of long-term agreements. No meaningful statistical comparison between the private and public sector is possible on this basis. During the first quarter of this year significant settlements have been concluded at around 10 per cent. or less in both the private and public sectors.

Electric Blankets (Safety Regulations)

Mr. Arthur Davidson asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the proposed safety regulations about electric blankets will be in operation.

Mr. Sharples : By the autumn.

Letter to the Editor

Mr. W. A. GIBSON

Many of his colleagues will have sent you messages about Willie Gibson. Can you find room to publish this note from one who had the privilege of being perhaps his longest standing MANWEB and pre-MANWEB friend? It was a friendship dating back about fifty years—starting at school in the early twenties, interrupted by the parting of our ways in the mid twenties, resumed in the mid thirties when I joined the industry and found him a seasoned member of it, and continued unbroken through the formation and first twenty-odd years of MANWEB.

Nobody has had a truer, kinder, or more helpful friend than W. A. G. was—and no employer a more loyal staff member. The nature of his work meant that sometimes he had to make decisions or recommendations which disappointed the other party, but he was always as generous as he could be—consistent with the Board getting fair value.

Nor did anyone approach him

in vain for advice about a personal problem. He had more than a fair share himself but he met them with a courageous cheerfulness which may have hidden them from all except his close associates.

We are all the poorer for his going.

W. W. Hughes,
(Assistant Secretary—retired)

Obituary

Mr. G. S. GREGORY

We regret to report the death recently of Mr. G. S. (Stan) Gregory, after a long illness. He was 60 years of age.

Stan joined the Board in 1948 and worked at Sandiway and Hatton Garden before taking up an appointment at Head-Office as Principal Assistant, Common Law in the Secretarial Department.

He leaves a widow and a married son and daughter to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

The Lord Mayor's Show Parade

City traffic stopped as 100,000 people lined the streets of Liverpool recently to enjoy the carnival atmosphere of the Lord Mayor's Show Parade.

The theme chosen for this first-ever parade was 'One City—Many Faces' and the fifty floats taking part certainly reflected this.

In the procession, which took a full half-hour to pass, was the MANWEB float depicting how to live better with electricity. Four of our lovelies were 'on board' providing and added attraction in their neat white mini dresses and chequered see-through macs and brollies. After all it did take place in June!

Right: Swingers in the rain. Our trio of attractions from Chester, from left to right: Miss Pat Dando, Miss Joan Whatling and Miss Sue Holmes. Below: Our fourth lovely, Miss Hilary Panting, on board the MANWEB float.





The happy group pictured above, gathered at our offices in Mostyn Broadway, Llandudno recently to give a good send-off to Mrs. Norma Robinson, an audio typist, who was resigning from her job for personal reasons. She had worked for the Board for the past ten years. Her husband Roy, is an electrician based at Llandudno Junction. On behalf of her colleagues, Mr. G. D. Cooksley (District Administrative Officer) presented Norma (in front row, holding bouquet) with a farewell gift coupled with their good wishes for future happiness.

FAREWELL

Photographic Competition 1971

Rules

1. Entry is free, but is restricted to MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families.
2. Each photograph or transparency submitted must be the original work and the copyright property of the person submitting it.
3. The Editor reserves the right to reproduce the winning pictures, but a reproduction fee will not be paid.
4. All photographs or transparencies must have been taken since August 1st, 1970.
5. Any number of Black and White prints may be submitted, but only FIVE colour transparencies or prints in any one section from each competitor.
6. Competitors must enclose a note with their entries, clearly stating their name and address (*office, or if a pensioner, home*), the title of each picture (*this is important*) and the class entered.
7. The competition will be judged by an independent panel and their decision is final.

8. Entries should be sent to 'The Editor, 'Contact,' MANWEB, Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 4LR, and the envelope or package marked in the top left hand corner "Photographic Competition." Closing Date—1st October, 1971.
9. Prizes will be awarded as follows :

COLOUR

1st Prize £10

2nd Prize £5

3rd Prize £3

BLACK AND WHITE

Portrait £5

General £5

Best Humorous picture in colour or black and white—£2

Great care will be taken of entries, all of which will be returned. When submitting your photographs and/or transparencies, it is advisable to protect them during transmission by post by packing them with a piece of stout cardboard, slightly larger than the photographs themselves.

Get snapping—there's money to be won!



Placed nicely between the two young ladies, Mr. Weston seems to be enjoying his farewell party.

RETIREMENTS

Mr. J. WESTON

A clerical assistant in the Welfare Section at Head Office, Mr. John Weston recently retired after serving the electricity industry for 23 years.

After a period with the Central Electricity Generating Board, he moved over to MANWEB and worked at the former Area 2 Offices at Sandiway House. Later he transferred to Area 2/3 at Sealand Road before gaining his position on the Head Office staff.

John, a bachelor, enjoys listening to classical music and is very keen on cine-photography.

At an informal party held to give him a good send-off, he was presented with a cheque from his friends and colleagues who with one voice wished him good health and happiness in retirement.

Surrounded by some of his friends at Llandudno is Mr. Twine, seated centre left.



Mr. C. H. TWINE

After 45 years' service in the electricity supply industry, Mr. Charles Henry Twine retired a few weeks ago from his job as an assistant section engineer in the Board's Conway/Llandudno section.

He began his career a little further up the coast at Colwyn Bay and later broadened his experience in Liverpool, Stockport and Skipton, returning to his native Penmaenmawr in 1945. Three years later he took up the post as assistant section engineer in the former Conway Valley District.

At his farewell ceremony, friends in the District presented him with a shaver and a cheque. These were handed over by Mr. L. Griffiths (*District Engineer, Chwyd*), who paid tributes to Mr. Twine's ability, experience, cheerful disposition and his willingness to turn out any time of the day or night to look after the customer's supply needs.



Mr. Mellor, left, hands over a cheque to Mr. Hughes when he retired recently.

Mr. D. HUGHES

Over half-a-century of service came to an end recently when Mr. David Hughes retired from his job as installation inspector at Llanrwst.

From 1920 until 1935, Mr. Hughes worked as a linesman for the Llanrwst and Trefriw Electric Lighting Company. Then he joined the North Wales Power Company and worked as a linesman, a meter fixer and then an electrician. Truly a man of many parts. When MANWEB took over in 1948, he was an electrician, and was later appointed to the job he held on retirement.

In presenting him with a cheque from his friends, Mr. D. Mellor (*District Commercial Engineer, Clwyd*) said that Mr. Hughes had always proved to be a very loyal and willing worker in his long period of service with the industry.

We join with his colleagues in North Wales in wishing Mr. Hughes many years of happy retirement.

Mr. E. A. WHITBY

A former North Wales Power Company man, Mr. Alf Whitby, retired from his job as an electrician with the Board a short time ago.

Mr. Whitby worked in the old Rhuddlan District some 35 years ago and shortly afterwards moved to the Johnstown area where he became an installation inspector.

Following an illness in 1963, Mr. Whitby was unable to continue with his duties as an installation inspector and went to work as an electrician in the workshop at Willow Road, Wrexham. Here he made an excellent job of repairing all kinds of electrical appliances for customers in the District.

At his farewell ceremony, many of his colleagues were present to see Mr. J. A. Winchester (*District Commercial Engineer*) hand over a radio on their behalf as a parting gift, as he thanked Mr. Whitby for his years of loyal service in the industry.

A very happy picture taken at the presentation ceremony for Mr. Whitby, seen here holding his gift.



Mr. S. BROWNLESS

A portable radio was presented to Mr. Sid Brownless, a mains foreman in the Liverpool District, when he retired a few weeks ago.

Mr. Brownless started work with the Liverpool Corporation Electricity Department in 1927 as a jointer's mate and was promoted to jointer five years later. After war service he resumed work as a jointer with the Corporation, first on medium voltage and later on high voltage. It was in 1967 that he became foreman.

We join his many friends in wishing Mr. Brownless a healthy and happy retirement.

Mr. J. POULSON

Another mains foreman from our Liverpool District, Mr. Jimmy Poulson, also retired from his work with the Board a short time ago.

Mr. Poulson was a labourer with the Liverpool Corporation Electricity Department in 1932 and within twelve months he became a jointer's mate. He served in the last war. On his return, he became a medium voltage jointer and then a high voltage jointer. He was promoted as mains foreman in the former Liverpool Central District in 1966.

His friends and colleagues in Liverpool subscribed to present him with a portable radio as a parting gift as they wished him a long and happy retirement.

Mr. I. A. EVANS

A lifetime of service—45 years—came to an end recently when Mr. Ivor A. Evans retired from his job as meter reader/collector at Colwyn Bay.

Ivor, a bachelor, has worked in 'The Bay' all his life, first with the Corporation and then with MANWEB.

On behalf of colleagues and friends at work, Mr. G. D. Cooksley (*District Administrative Officer*) presented Ivor with a parting gift and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Mr. J. L. JONES

A few weeks ago, Mr. J. Llew. Jones, an electrician at our Johnstown Depot, retired after 21 years service with the Board.

Mr. Jones spent most of his time in a small workshop (*his pride and joy*) at the rear of our Johnstown shop. Here he repaired the many small appliances brought in by customers.

Many of his friends gathered to say their farewells and to wish him well in retirement. On their behalf, Mr. J. W. Forrester (*Installation Engineer, Dee Valley*) presented Mr. Jones with a parting gift and thanked him for his service with the Board and for the good customer relations he had helped to establish over his years at Johnstown.

Friends at Johnstown gather to say their farewells to Mr. Jones, centre.



Retired recently ? Or not so recently ?

Your old friends and colleagues will be more than interested to know how you are getting along . . . enjoying your free time and hobbies . . . and dealing with the problems which retirement brings to everyone.

Why not drop a line to the Editor, Contact, MANWEB, Sealand Road, Chester? We would be delighted to hear from you—and to publish letters and articles of interest to other retired MANWEB people, and those facing retirement in the near future.

PRIZE CROSSWORD COMPETITION

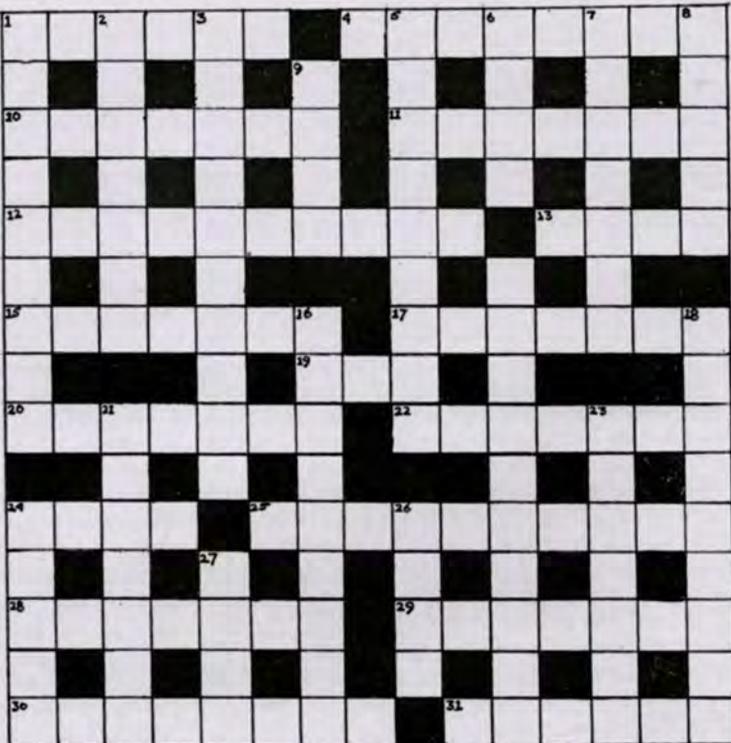
Here we go again, giving money away for a little bit of effort and brainwork. This tricky puzzle has been submitted by our old friend Mr. F. G. Lott, and we are offering three prizes of £2 each to the senders of the first three all-correct solutions opened on 6th August—the last date for receipt of entries.

Send them to *The Editor, Contact, MANWEB, Head Office, Sealand Road, Chester CH1 2LR.*

The competition is restricted to MANWEB employees, pensioners and their families.

Clues Across

1. Fancy flavour (6).
4. Creator of Tom Jones (8).
10. "A taste for drink combined with gout, had... him up for ever." (The Gondoliers) (7).
11. Barchester doctor (7).
12. Pulse-like; sweet peas for example (10).
13. There's ardour in pale languor (4).
15. A confused maid ran in for Prospero's daughter (7).
17. Fast talk (7).
19. This ant is in possession (3).
20. "This was the... Roman of them all." (J. Caesar) (7).



22. Defensible if able to follow (7).
24. The equivalent of 216 gallons of ale followed by a fish! (4).
25. Got rid of grade "H" disc (10).
28. "Forsyte, ... and Forsyte." (7).
29. I'd one anna change—from an American dollar? (7).
30. The result of scratching at the soil, perhaps (8).
31. Stick a little commercial in this place (6).

Clues Down

1. Diggory Venn's occupation (9).
2. Parlourman! (7).
3. Fire spirit (10).
5. Indiscreet tin dumper (9).
6. Aspect of Osborne's anger (4).
7. Take part in a strangely eluding way (7).
8. Jumbies' head colour (5).
9. Nothing but noise for the god of war (4).
14. No fists, honestly (4-6).
16. Badly trained at losing one's rights (9).
18. Duck (9).
21. Confused noise. (N.B. It's quite a blessing really) (7).
23. Touchstone suggested they make an honourable retreat without it (7)
- 24 and 26. Instructor in brass and iron (Genesis) (5-4).
27. Could be of cold comfort (4).

"She wants to hire a potted petunia for a week!"

